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In your discretion you may use following background in reply expressions of interest from foreign governments re Saud visit.

President explained purpose his recent proposal related to Middle East and Saud expressed satisfaction and made favorable public statements to press.

Views of leaders of Syria, Jordan and Egypt regarding various problems also covered. US made clear desire for friendly relations with all countries in area and explained point of view with respect currently outstanding problems between US and Egypt and US apprehension over tensions in Middle East. Other continuing problems, such as Buraimi, Farsi and Arabi, Gulf of Aqaba, Gaza, Suez Canal and Yemen also discussed. Economic discussions in addition bilateral problems also touched on general economic relationship between Middle East and Europe and America. Views were exchanged re relations with UK and France and US expressed hope for early resumption normal diplomatic ties.

Saudis and Iraqis on their initiative made arrangements for historical meeting Saud and Abdul Ilah. All reports this meeting indicated it was successful. Saud made unprecedented move by returning call to Crown Prince's hotel. Both parties seemed genuinely pleased results these conversations.

Agreement was

52

Drafted by:

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NEA- William M. Rountree

Clearances:

S/S-CR

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711.563 Agreement was reached on extension of Dhahran Airfield Agreement for five years. In turn, US agreed furnish military equipment on reimbursable basis to Saudi Arabia and to provide air training program and augmented army program. Some economic measures may develop related to Dhahran area such as improvement Damman port. Agreement in principle has been reached these matters and formal exchange notes will follow.

While difficult assess visit at this point, Department generally believes Saud impressed by Washington reception and genuine interest demonstrated in problems of area. US recognizes Saud's position leads him to seek moderating role and believes his greater understanding fundamental US hopes and objectives will assist him to this end.

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